

# COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

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## Coastal Cleanup Day

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual California Coastal Cleanup Day took place on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm at Shasta Dam, Whiskeytown Lake, and beaches along Cottonwood Creek. More than 125 volunteers, including members of the Evergreen Environmental Committee, worked to collect a combined 2 tons of debris from the area that otherwise would have been carried to the Pacific Ocean. This annual event is the premier volunteer event focused on the marine environment in the country and is the highlight of the California Coastal Commission's year round Adopt-A-Beach program.

Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of our fragile marine environment, show community support for our shared natural resources, learn about the impacts of marine debris and how we can prevent them, and to have fun!

Members of the Kids for our Creek, Evergreen Environmental Committee, along with parent volunteers, met at Evergreen Middle School and then headed over to the CCWG office to meet and hand out supplies to local volunteers participating in the clean up. The students then joined volunteers in collecting debris at three different locations (I-5 Bridge, Evergreen Bridge, and Farquhar Road crossing) along the shores and in the water of Cottonwood Creek. According to the California Coastal Commission, collecting garbage inland is just as important as collecting along the coast as more than half of the garbage found on the coast originates from an inland location.

In all, approximately 50,000 volunteers throughout California picked up at least 850,000 pounds in trash, including more than 100,000 pounds of recyclables. The area under the I-5 Bridge was by far the most littered. Unusual items found included an ironing board, an engine, two cars, and a crayfish stuck in a beer can. The most dangerous items to wildlife are most often the smallest pieces of trash in which an animal might swallow or get caught up in.

More than 40,000 volunteers have turned out to over 700 cleanup sites statewide for Coastal Cleanup Day to conduct what has been recorded by the Guinness Book of World Records as "the largest garbage collection" (1993). Since the program started in 1985, over 552,000 Californians have removed more than 8.5 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast. When combined with the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by The Ocean Conservancy and taking place on the same day, California Coastal Cleanup Day becomes part of one of the largest volunteer events of the year.

The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group thanks the wonderful volunteers who made this event possible along with local sponsors including Roots and Shoots, Shasta-Trinity National Forest Service, and the Tehama County Solid Waste Management for their generous support.

## Kids for our Creek Program

The Kids for our Creeks program is underway so look for us out in the watershed this fall! The students at Evergreen Middle School were invited to apply for the Evergreen Teaching Academy and the Evergreen Environmental Committee. These students will be responsible for developing school to community connections through environmental awareness, education, and community projects throughout the Cottonwood Creek watershed. This amazing program has been very successful and we are anticipating a greater level of involvement this year as we expand this program to other schools within the watershed. We are always looking for volunteers to assist these enthusiastic students with projects. As a volunteer, you can participate in science based environmental projects including water monitoring, restoration, and an assortment of community events and activities. Please call or email me if you would like to become involved with this fun and exciting program!

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**Mission Statement:** "The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education."

CCWG 10/27/99

## Strategic Planning Continues...

The contract for the Watershed Strategic Plan (WSP) was signed in June and the process of developing the management plan is well underway. Public workshops, held in June and July, focused on issue areas including erosion, water quality and quantity, fuel loads, flooding, wildlife, and habitat. The workshops were facilitated by CH2MHill and attended by landowners, agency representatives, members of the TAC, and other stakeholders within the watershed. Workshop attendees discussed the issues along with the cultural and social issues that must be addressed when developing the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Representatives from CH2MHill objectively compiled all comments and suggestions generated by the attendees and formulated recommendations for the WMP. Members of the TAC met in September to discuss the recommendations and offer their technical advice. The revised recommendations were then sent to CH2MHill for final revisions.

Now, we need your help in the next step of this process. The final revisions will be sent out to stakeholders for additional comments and suggestions on the final recommendations. The final recommendations will be sent out sometime in November so keep an eye out. CCWG needs your final comments and suggestions in order to develop a cooperative WMP that takes into account the concerns and needs of all stakeholders in the Cottonwood Creek Watershed.

**"Funding for this project has been provided full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program"**

**\*This work began in May of 2004 and will continue for approximately 14 to 16 months.**



See what's on the flip side!

## News from the Past

An excerpt from Dottie Smith's book, *History of Cottonwood. Now and Then*, about the Cottonwood Grave Yard.

1874: The Cottonwood Grave Yard was established in June upon the death of Mary Wilson, full blooded Indian wife of landowner William Wilson. Mary was buried on the farm and when other members of her family died, they were buried beside her in the farm cemetery (Mary's headstone is the oldest in the cemetery). When Mr. Wilson died, he was buried beside Mary becoming the first white man to be buried in what had become an Indian graveyard. That portion where the Wilson's and the Indians are buried was eventually donated to the town of Cottonwood as the Cottonwood Cemetery and was called the Wilson Reserve.

Adam Schuman eventually acquired the property and on May 24, 1895 he deeded two acres of the Cottonwood Grave Yard to the Cottonwood Cemetery Association.

In much later years a decision was made to bury the indigents of the area in the "Wilson Reserve" but after several attempts to dig graves, grave diggers could not locate an empty spot, so the idea for trying to bury in the Wilson Reserve portion was forever abandoned.

## Announcements

Holly Savage, our Watershed Education Coordinator, will be hosting Story Time from 12 to 1pm at the Cottonwood Community Library on the first Wednesday of every month. Beginning Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> Holly will host Story Time which includes a story, music, and educational activities for young children. Please bring your children down to join Holly at the library on the first Wednesday of every month! The Cottonwood Library is located at 3306 Main Street. You may contact the library for additional information at (530) 347-4818.

### Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:

**When:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm

**Where:** Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

Upcoming meeting dates:

**October 26:** CA Timber, a dying breed / **November 23:** Turkeys, Pigs and Beaver **December 28:** No Meeting / **January 24:** Annual Meeting

**Our Oct-Dec 2004 newsletter will be available online at our new website at: [www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org](http://www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org)**

This newsletter was brought to you by the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group. If you would like to participate in the group or have questions, please contact us. We'd also appreciate any volunteer help you can provide. We look forward to hearing from you!

**\* CLEAR YOUR CALENDER: Fire Safe Council meeting Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm at the Cottonwood Creek Watershed office, Cottonwood.**

## K-rails at the Evergreen Bridge

Four K-rails have been installed at the Evergreen Bridge on the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. A 12 foot gate will be installed at the same location in October, in order for the Tehama County Road Department to get underneath the Evergreen Bridge for maintenance. The hauling and placement of the k-rails was all donated. The gate will cost \$500.00 for material. The preparation of the gate material (cutting and welding) is also being donated.

Landowners that live along the South Fork Cottonwood Creek, and benefit from this closure are welcome to make a cash donation to help defray the costs for installation and materials for the gate.

With the start of hunting season and the k-rails in place, there has been noticeably less traffic in the creek. It is the hope of the Stakeholders in the Cottonwood Creek Watershed that with the k-rails, there will be less trespassing and vandalism with four-wheel drives and ATV's in the creek channel and on private land, making Cottonwood Creek a safe and clean area to live by.

We would like to thank J.F. Shay for their generous donation of the four k-rails that helped to make this project possible.

**CCWG is IRS-recognized as a non-profit 501C3, meaning donations can be used as tax deductions!**

## Fire, Fire, Fire!

The Fire Council has submitted a grant to continue with the work of the Fire Safe Council, monthly meetings, and to update our Strategic Fuels Reduction and Management Plan yearly as well as meet the standards of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWP). We hope that we can start working on evacuation maps for local communities in the watershed. Currently we are looking for funding for a fuel reduction/fuel break project along Bowman Road to Hwy 36W as well as a fuel break around the entire town of Platina.

The council is still working on installing the water tank along Quail Ridge Road. We have the tank, and it is ready to go. However with the busy fire season that we have had and the low numbers of fire staff the tank will not be able to be sat in its final resting place until fire season is completely over.

As we head towards the winter months and the fire season comes to an end. We should remember the tragedy that the Bear Fire and French Fire caused, reminding us that it is very important to clean dead, dying, or fallen timber and brush away from our homes that build up over the long winter months. Clearing all fuel loading debris within a 100 feet radius and removing fire ladders will significantly reduce the chances of YOUR home being destroyed in a wildfire.